DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 289 206 CS 505 830

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TITLE Feminist Rhetoric: A Selected Annotated Bibliography.
INSTITUTION ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, Urbana, Ill.; Speech Communication Association, Annandale, Va.
SPONS AGENCY Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE Sep 84
NOTE 5p.; Small print.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; Civil Rights; Communication Research; Cultural Context; *Discourse Analysis; Females; *Feminism; Ideology; *Language Usage; Political Issues; *Rhetoric; *Rhetorical Criticism; Sex Bias; Sex Role; *Social History; Womens Studies
IDENTIFIERS Equal Rights Amendment; *Feminist Criticism; Male Female Relationship; Rhetorical Community; Rhetorical Stance; Womens Literature; Womens Organizations

ABSTRACT

Noting that the proliferation of discourse by and about the women's movement makes focus imperative in a bibliography dealing with feminism, this annotated bibliography concentrates on rhetorical analysis of American feminist rhetoric. The 42 cited items, most of which appeared in communication journals or were presented at communication conventions, are intended for use by teachers and students of communication interested in understanding feminist discourse. (NKA)

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FEMINIST RHETORIC

A Selected Annotated Bibliography

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September 1984

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The proliferation of discourse by and about the women's movement makes focusing imperative in such a bibliography. I have chosen to concentrate on rhetorical analyses of American feminist rhetoric. Thus, although writings about the women's movement appear in a wide range of publications, most of the items included here appeared in communication journals or were presented at communication conventions. This focus seems most useful for teachers and students of communication who are interested in understanding feminist discourse.

Anderson, Judith. "Sexual Politics: Chauvinism and Backlash?" Communication Quarterly, 21 (Fall 1973), 11-16.
Categorizes and analyzes audience images of contemporary women politicians according to temperament (the psychological dimension), role (the sociological dimension), and status (the political dimension).

Berry, Elizabeth. "Emma Goldman: A Study in Female Agitation." Women's Studies in Communication, 4 (Fall 1981), 32-46.
Analyzes Goldman's agitation as an illustration of the problems a female agitator encounters in a patriarchal society.

Bosmajian, Haig A. "The Abrogation of the Suffragists' First Amendment Rights." Western Speech, 38 (Fall 1974), 218-32.
Describes how the treatment of suffragists arrested for picketing and other protest strategies were denied their first amendment rights.

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "Femininity and Feminism: To Be or Not to Be a Woman." Communication Quarterly, 31 (Spring 1983), 101-08.
Argues that the early and contemporary phases of feminism are one rhetorical movement, typified by an ideological conflict between "womanhood" and "personhood."

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "The Rhetoric of Women's Liberation: An Oxymoron." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 59 (February 1973), 74-86.
Describes women's liberation as an oxymoron because of substantive and stylistic features that distinguish it from other social movements.

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "Stanton's 'The Solitude of Self': A Rationale for Feminism." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 66 (October 1980), 304-12.
The "Solitude of Self" should be understood as a philosophical statement of the ideology of nineteenth-century feminism, which accounts in part for its continuing power.

Chapel, Gage William. "Christian Science and the 19th Century Woman's Movement." Central States Speech Journal, 26 (Summer 1975), 142-49.
Mary Baker Eddy's rhetoric had ideological roots in the women's movement, which helped account for its appeal and effectiveness.

Conrad, Charles. "Agon and Rhetorical Form: The Essence of 'Old Feminist' Rhetoric." Central States Speech Journal, 32 (Spring 1981), 45-53.
The essential dramatic conflict of early feminism was between the "Cult of True Womanhood" and the personhood of all women.

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Cullen, Jack B. "Ann Eliza Young: A Nineteenth Century Champion of Women's Rights." Paper presented at the Western Speech Communication Association convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 1983. (ERIC ED 227 523)
The success as a speaker of Ann Eliza Young, ex-wife of Brigham Young, is attributed to the psychological impact of her anti-polygamy message.

Coughlin, Elizabeth Myette, and Charles Edward Coughlin. "Convention in Petticoats: The Seneca Falls Declaration of Woman's Rights." Today's Speech, 21 (Fall 1973), 17-23.
Analysis of the Seneca Falls Convention and the resulting Declaration of Woman's Rights.

Foss, Karen A. "Ideological Manifestations in Discourse: Toward a Methodology for the Study of Social Movements." Paper presented at the Western Speech Communication Association convention, Phoenix, Arizona, November 1977. (ERIC ED 149 388)
Presents a methodology for studying the ideologies of social movements and tests it by comparing the rhetoric of the National Organization for Women, Women's Equity Action League, and The Feminists.

Foss, Karen A. "Origin of Contemporary Feminism: Source of Difficulty for the Equal Rights Amendment." Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Association convention, Arcata, California, June 1982. (ERIC ED 222 409)
The goals and increased radicalization of the emergence phase of contemporary feminism may have contributed to the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Foss, Karen A. "The Rhetoric of Betty Friedan: Rhetoric of Redefinition." Paper presented at the Speech Communication Association convention, San Antonio, Texas, November 1979. (ERIC ED 180 007)
Analysis of Friedan's symbolic redefinition of women's roles in two of her speeches: Tokenism and the Pseudo-Radical Cop-Out" and "Call to Women's Strike for Equality."

Foss, Karen A., and Michael J. Schneider. "Thought, Sex, and Language: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis in the American Women's Movement." Women's Studies in Communication, 1 (Spring 1977), 1-7.
Feminists approach the issue of sexism in language with a strong Whorfian position (language determines thought) which, while beneficial to the movement in several ways, may cost them credibility.

Foss, Sonja K. "Autopsy of the Equal Rights Amendment: Failure to Meet Oppositional Rhetoric." Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Association convention, Arcata, California, June 1982. (ERIC ED 222 410)
The failure of supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment to understand the rhetoric and world view of opponents contributed to its defeat.

Foss, Sonja K. "Equal Rights Amendment Controversy: Two Worlds in Conflict." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 65 (October 1979), 275-88.
A fantasy-theme analysis of the rhetoric of opponents and proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment shows little common ground between them for argumentation.

Foss, Sonja K. "Feminism Confronts Catholicism: A Study of the Use of Perspective by Incongruity." Women's Studies in Communication, 3 (Summer 1979), 7-16.
An examination and evaluation of the use of perspective by incongruity in two pieces of feminist rhetoric against the policies of the Catholic church--a speech by Ti-Grace Atkinson and an essay by Mary Daly.

Gillespie, Patti P. "Feminist Theatre: A Rhetorical Phenomenon." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 64 (October 1978), 284-94.
Describes the formation and characteristics of feminist theatres as a suitable response to the needs of the women's movement.

Gold, Ellen Reid. "The Grimké Sisters and the Emergence of the Woman's Rights Movement." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 46 (Summer 1981), 341-60.
The Grimké's rhetoric served to develop and sustain their sense of selfhood in the face of strong social norms against women speaking in public.

Hancock, Brenda Robinson. "Affirmation by Negation in the Women's Liberation Movement." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 58 (October 1972), 264-71.
The strategics of rejection and negation are shown to have a cathartic and affirming outcome for members of the women's movement.

Hillbruner, Anthony. "Frances Wright: Egalitarian Reformer." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 23 (Summer 1958), 193-203.
Wright's contribution to the egalitarian ideal are examined through her lectures and speechmaking.

Hope, Diana Schaich. "Redefinition of Self: A Comparison of the Rhetoric of the Women's Liberation and Black Liberation Movements." Communication Quarterly, 23 (Winter 1975), 17-25.
While both the black and women's liberation movements share the basic rhetorical task of redefinition of self, significant differences emerge in terms of (1) the issue of sexism; (2) the nature of the audience; and (3) responses to each movement.

Huyink, Cynthia J. "A Dramatistic Analysis of Sexual Politics by Kate Millett." Women's Studies in Communication, 3 (Summer 1979), 1-6.
Examines Millett's motives for writing Sexual Politics and analyzes the rhetorical strategies she uses to accomplish her purposes.

Kendall, Kathleen Edgerton, and Jeanne Y. Fisher. "Frances Wright on Women's Rights: Eloquence Versus Ethos." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 40 (February 1974), 58-68.
Wright's failure to adhere to societal norms for women may have lowered her ethos and decreased the effectiveness of her discourse.

Kennedy, Patricia Scileppi, and Gloria Hartmann O'Shields. We Shall Be Heard: Women Speakers in America. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 1983.
An anthology of women's speeches from 1928-1976, including biographical commentary about each of the women.

Kruse, Noreen Wales. "The Myth of the Demonic in Anti-ERA Rhetoric." Women's Studies in Communication, 6 (Fall 1983), 85-95.
Contends that the persuasive appeals of anti-ERA arguments were grounded in a mythic order, which ERA supporters failed to counter. The 1980 referendum to add an ERA to Iowa's constitution is used as a case study.

Kurs, Katherine, and Robert S. Cathcart. "The Feminist Movement: Lesbian-Feminism as Confrontation." Women's Studies in Communication, 6 (Spring 1983), 12-23.
A comparison of lesbian, reformist, and radical feminist rhetoric reveals that women's liberation is not a unified movement with a single ideology.

Larson, Suzanne. "The Rhetoric of Mary Daly: The Rhetoric of Naming." Paper presented at the Speech Communication Association convention, San Antonio, Texas, November 1979. (ERIC ED 184 154)
Examines substantive and stylistic strategies in Daly's Gyn/Ecology and points out difficulties in her utopian vision.

Linkugel, Wil A. "The Speech Style of Anna Howard Shaw." Central States Speech Journal, 13 (Spring 1962), 171-78.
Examination of Shaw's speaking style, speeches, and rhetorical effectiveness.

Linkugel, Wil A. "The Woman Suffrage Argument of Anna Howard Shaw." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 49 (April 1963), 165-74
Examination of the grounds of Shaw's arguments for women's suffrage.

Mansfield, Dorothy M. "Abigail S. Duniway: Suffragette with Non-so-common Sense." Western Speech, 35 (Winter 1971), 24-29.
Shows how Duniway's suffrage arguments were based in practicality, freedom, and morality.

McDavitt, Elaine E. "Susan B. Anthony, Reformer and Speaker." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 30 (April 1944), 173-80.
Discussion of the career, background influences, speaking characteristics, and reactions of the contemporary press to Susan B. Anthony.

McFarlin, Annjennette S. "Hallie Quinn Brown: Black Woman Elocutionist." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 46 (Fall 1980), 72-82.
Demonstrates the importance of Brown as elocutionist, teacher, and political leader.

McPherson, Louise. "Communication Techniques of the Women's Liberation Front." Today's Speech, 21 (Spring 1973), 33-38.
Explores internal (change attitudes) and external (change the societal framework) strategies of the women's movement; concludes that external ones are likely to be more effective than internal ones.

Nogle, Vicki. "Lesbianfeminist Rhetoric as a Social Movement." In Gayspeak: Gay Male and Lesbian Communication. Ed. James W. Chesebro. New York: Pilgrim, 1981, pp. 260-71.
Discusses lesbianfeminism as a social movement emerging out of the women's liberation movement and gay liberation movements, both of which now serve as counter movements to it.

Reynolds, Beatrice K. "An Interview with Ti-Grace Atkinson: Her Speeches and Speechmaking." Communication Quarterly, 21 (Fall 1973), 3-10.
Portion of a much longer interview with Atkinson (former president of the National Organization for Women and founder of The Feminists), dealing with her speaking style, speeches, and public communication in general.

Rossenwasser, Marie J. "Rhetoric and the Progress of the Women's Liberation Movement." Today's Speech, 20 (Summer 1972), 45-56.
Charts the progress of the women's liberation movement through the stages of "genesis and impetus," "action and reaction," and "conversion and change." Suggests what is necessary for the movement to move beyond the current stage to "revision and solidification" and "success and silence."

Shimanoff, Susan B. "Man-Human: Empirical Support for the Whorfian Hypothesis." Women's Studies in Communication, 1 (Summer 1977), 21-27.
Disputes Foss and Schneider's claim that the women's movement makes use of a strong Whorfian hypothesis in dealing with sexism in language (see WSIC, 1 (Spring 1977), 1-7), and argues instead that feminists employ the weaker, more acceptable form of the hypothesis.

Solomon, Martha. "The 'Positive Woman's' Journey: A Mythic Analysis of the Rhetoric of STOP ERA." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 65 (October 1965), 262-74.
The effectiveness of the rhetoric of STOP ERA is attributed in part to its strong mythic vision.

Solomon, Martha. "The Rhetoric of STOP ERA: Fatalistic Reaffirmation." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 43 (Fall 1978), 42-59.
Examines the ideology and image of STOP ERA and its proponents, arguing that although its ideology is fatalistic and manipulative, its reaffirmation of traditional perspectives makes it rhetorically effective.

Solomon, Martha. "Stopping ERA: A Pyrrhic Victory." Communication Quarterly, 31 (Spring 1983), 109-17.
Traces elements of a divinely ordained order in the rhetoric of STOP ERA and assesses the social impact of this vision.

Wagner, Gerard A. "Sojourner Truth: God's Appointed Apostle of Reform." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 28 (Winter 1962), 123-30.
Explores Truth's rhetorical effectiveness in both the abolition and women's suffrage movements.

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Citations followed by ED numbers are educational documents announced in Resources in Education (RIE), the ERIC monthly abstract journal.

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